Wintering on different continents

Kentie, Rosemarie

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Effects on breeding parameters of Black-tailed Godwits

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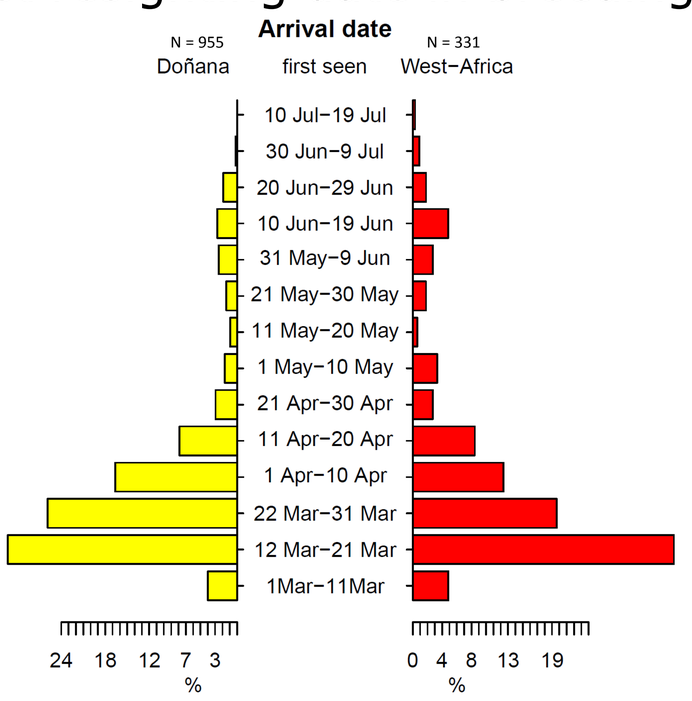
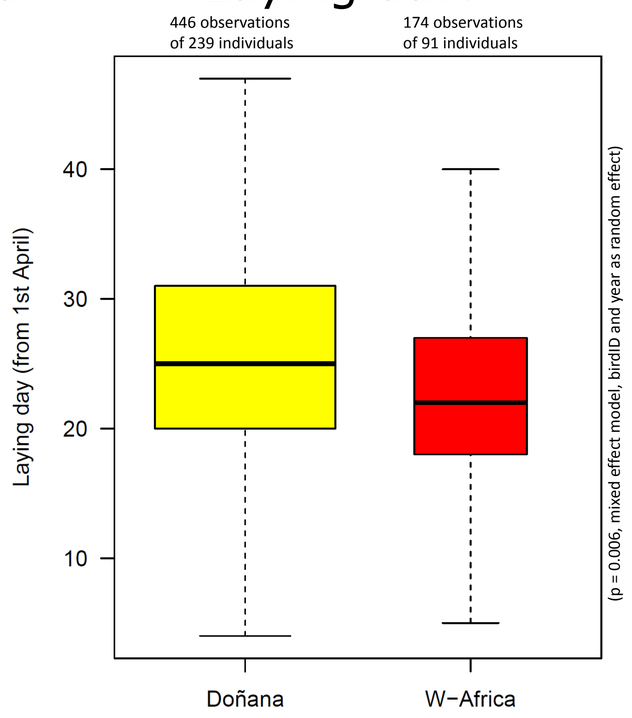
Hypothesis: Godwits that winter in Doñana benefit from shorter migration distances, which will be reflected in their breeding parameters

First resighting date in breeding area

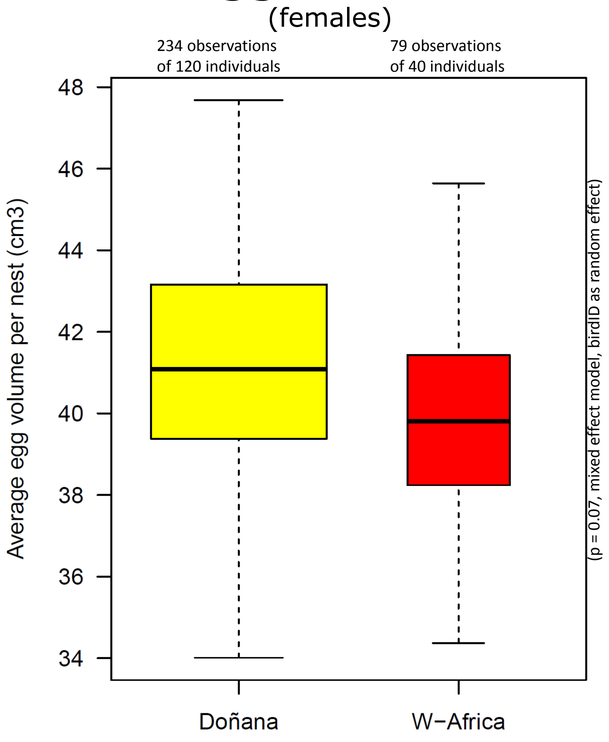


Laying date

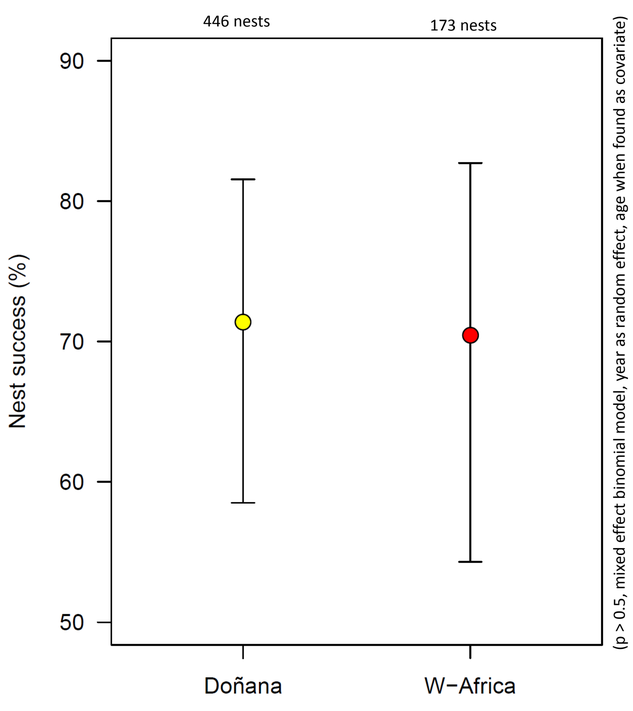


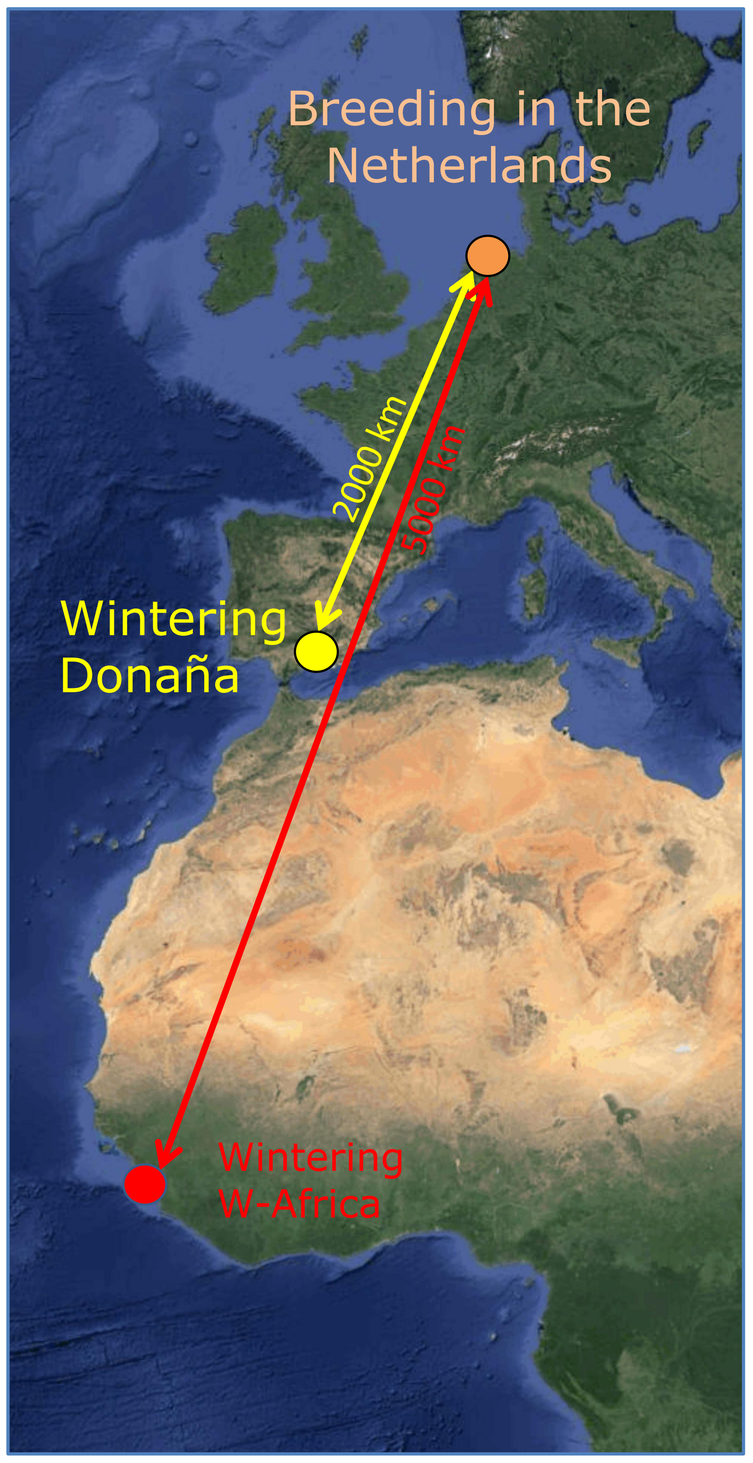
Egg volume

(females)



Nest success





Black-tailed Godwits wintering in Doñana seem to have similar breeding parameters compared to godwits wintering 3000 km further south, in West Africa.

- No difference in arrival date in their breeding area
- Laying dates of Doñana winterers were 3 days later than those wintering in W-Africa
- No difference in egg volume
- No difference in nest success

Methods:

Since 2004 we have colour-ringed more than 9000 Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa limosa*). We have more than 75.000 resightings throughout the flyway. If an individual was seen at least once during the non-breeding period in West Africa, we classified it as a West Africa winterer. If an individual was seen in Doñana in Sept-Nov, we classified it to winter there (see Marquez *et al.* 2014). We assumed that they were faithful to their wintering location, which unpublished data on satellite tags and geolocators confirms. Breeding parameters were collected in 8500 ha field site in The Netherlands (see Groen *et al.* 2012 and Kentie *et al.* 2015 for more details).

1. Márquez-Ferrando, R., Figuerola, J., Hooijmeijer, J.C.E.W. & Piersma, T. (2014) Recently created man-made habitats in Doñana provide alternative wintering space for the threatened Continental European black-tailed godwit population. *Biological Conservation,* **171,** 127-135.
2. Groen, N.M., Kentie, R., de Goeij, P., Verheijen, B., Hooijmeijer, J.C.E.W. & Piersma, T. (2012) A modern landscape ecology of Black-tailed Godwits: habitat selection in southwest Friesland, The Netherlands. *Ardea,* **100,** 19-28.
3. Kentie, R., Both, C., Hooijmeijer, J.C.E.W. & Piersma, T. (2015) Management of modern agricultural landscapes increases nest predation rates in Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa limosa*). *Ibis,* **157,** 614-625.

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